

REMARKS

Claims 4-6, 10 and 11 are pending. Claims 1-3, 7-9 and 12-13 have been cancelled herein. Claims 4, 10 and 11 have been amended herein. Support for the amendment is based on allowed claims 5 and 6 as detailed below.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Japanese reference **8-55,608**. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by **Miller** (U.S. Patent No. 3,636,641). Claims 7, 12 and 13 are rejected as being anticipated by **Lu** (U.S. Patent No. 5,291,379). As noted above, applicants have cancelled these claims and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn as moot.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 4, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese reference **11-84,381** in view of **Miller** (U.S. Patent No. 3,636,341). In response thereto applicants have amended claims 4, 10 and 11 to more distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Specifically, applicants have included language in the claim that a liquid crystal display device comprises a discharge tube, a reflector for reflecting a light radiated from the discharge tube and support members arranged at positions near electrodes of the discharge tube to support the discharge tube to the reflector. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of **JP A 11-84,381** and **Miller** do not disclose, teach nor suggest the invention of amended claims 4, 10 and 11.

JP A 11-84,381 does not include a structure of support members. According to the present invention, there is a remarkable effect that the cold discharge tube is protected by supporting the cold discharge tube of a liquid crystal display incorporated in, such as, a portable type apparatus.

Miller only discloses a supporting member to support an electric light bulb on a reflector. Contrary to this, the invention defined by claims 4, 10 and 11 as amended is a heat conduction member, and is provided to prevent a portion of the discharge tube near electrodes of the discharge tube from being the lowest point in temperature. Neither **JP-A 11-84,381** nor **Miller** teaches such a feature.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Further, the amendments made herein neither introduce new issues nor language to the claims. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that no additional search is needed. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Caridi", is written over a horizontal line.

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